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DEPT FOR SECSTATE SCHULTZ, DEPUTY SEC DAM, AS ENDERS
 FROM AMB KIRKPATRICK
 CIA FOR WILLIAM CASEY
 NSC FOR WILLIAM CLARK

E. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: OVIP (KIRKPATRICK, JEANE), XK
 SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY SUMMARY REPORT ON THE TRIP TO
 FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN NATIONS

1. (CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. THERE IS A GREAT ANXIETY THROUGHOUT THE AREA
 CONCERNING A GUERRILLA VICTORY IN EL SALVADOR WHICH
 IS WIDELY REGARDED IN ALL THE COUNTRIES VISITED AS

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HONDURAS, SALVADOR--DESPERATELY WANT (AND NEED) MORE
 SOLIDARITY AND HELP FROM THEIR LATIN NEIGHBORS.

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83 0501562 SCO PAGE 003 NC 0501562
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PANAMA, VENEZUELA ET AL. PREFER THIS AS A MECHANISM
FOR MORE DEEPLY INVOLVING THEMSELVES.

3. CENTRAL AMERICAN CORE NATIONS MAKE CLEAR THE
ARE READY AND WILLING TO CAREFULLY COORDINATE WITH
AND INFORM THE U.S.

IT IS CLEAR THAT ANY EFFORT BY THE U.S. TO
PREVENT SUCH A MEETING WILL BE DEEPLY RESENTED AND
MIGHT WELL INHIBIT FURTHER INVOLVEMENT BY VENEZUELA
AND PANAMA IN THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

5. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: ECONOMIC CRISIS IS ACUTE
THROUGHOUT THE AREA. LOW PRICES OF MAJOR PRODUCTS,
INADEQUATE MARKETS, UNAVAILABILITY OF CREDIT, AND HIGH
INTEREST RATES PALGUE ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION.

A. In :95 NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS THERE IS COMPLETE
BEWILDERMENT ABOUT WHY THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO
GIVE NICARAGUA ITS SUGAR QUOTA WHEN THEY NEED IT SO
BADLY. THEY SEE IT AS PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR
NICARAGUA'S FALTERING ECONOMY AND DENYING THEM (AND
GUATEMALA) BADLY NEEDED HELP.

B. HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR BOTH BADLY NEED MORE
ECONOMIC AID AND COULD USE MANY MORE SURPLUS FOOD-
STUFFS ON GRANT OR PL-480 TERMS.

6. EL SALVADOR: THERE IS AN ESPECIALLY ACUTE NEED
TO UNIFY SALVADOR'S BADLY DIVIDED SOCIETY AND FRAGILE
GOVERNMENT. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ALL PAINS SHOULD
BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AND MUTUAL TOLERANCE
AND ENHANCE CONFIDENCE. ASSURANCE WITH REGARD TO
U.S. SUPPORT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME.
LANDAU

END OF MESSAGE

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